

Successful Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) Projects

Project Title: The CityU Sustainability Debate Series

Brief Abstract:

University and secondary school students are demonstrating an increasing interest in academic debating as a means to improve their critical thinking. This project sets out to fill a gap in debating competitions. CityU will host the first ever university debating competitions in Hong Kong focused exclusively on motions concerning sustainability. Two debating competitions will be held in 2018-2019. Expert training will be provided before the debates. A distinguished keynote speaker will address the debating teams and audience members and serve on the judging panel. The debates will contribute to the development of the next generation of environmental leaders in Hong Kong and the region.

Investigator: Dr Justin ROBERTSON (AIS), Dr ZHANG Jun (AIS) and Mr Sandeep CHULANI (MAIS student)

Biography:

Justin ROBERTSON is an Associate Professor in the Department of Asian and International Studies whose primary research interest concerns the changing global political economy. His teaching increasingly puts economic approaches to environmental change to the test.

ZHANG Jun is a sociocultural anthropologist interested in urban life and environments with a regional focus on China. Dr. Zhang has been using debates as a teaching method to encourage students to develop communication, critical thinking and argumentation skills in different institutions she has served and with different student groups. Her research projects follow two approaches. The first focuses on various kinds of human experiences in the rapidly changing urban context. She explores the social, political and ethical lives of the emerging urban middle class. The second approach centers around the built environment and its historical transformation. She investigates the processes of the construction of streets, houses, bridges and other infrastructures and their political and social impacts.

Sandeep CHULANI is a student in the Master's of International Studies at CityU. He is the co-founder of the Hong Kong British Parliamentary Debating Championships, an annual event held at HKU for high school students. As a debater, he was part of the first ever contingent to qualify for the knockout rounds of the World University Debating Championships, and went on to be the Best Debater in East Asia. As an adjudicator, he was the first and only person from Hong Kong to be on the adjudication core of the Asian Debating Championships. He is a highly experienced debate coach and organizer, having helped to run events in over 10 regions and countries.